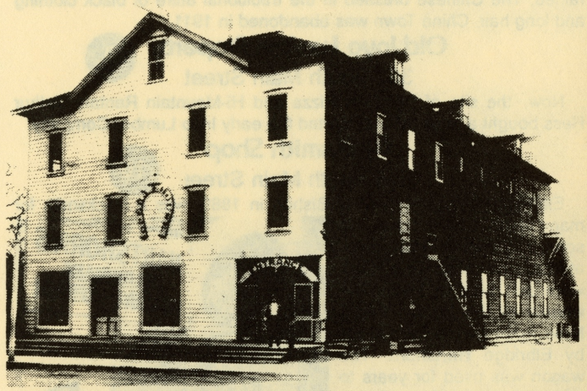
1980s to what it is today when the Bank of Mammoth started its Bishop branch. This location now is occupied by Monument National Bank.

Opera House 13
156 East Line Street

One of the worst fires in the history of Bishop was the burning of the three-story Opera House owned by Harry Holland. This happened on the evening of January 6, 1924. The upper floor was used by lodges and fraternities for meetings. There were offices and rooms on the second floor and the first floor served as a theatre, ballroom, basketball court and banquet hall. On the day it burned, a basketball team had been using it and a women's group had been practicing on the upper floor. There was never any proof established as to the cause of the fire. The current picture running at the time of the fire was "My American Wife" featuring Gloria Swanson. When the alarm was sounded a great column of smoke and flame was already leaping from the roof. The volunteer firemen worked valiantly, but the fire was so hot it was impossible to get close enough to stop it. Although it was evening, the sky was so bright from the glow of the fire that the cock pheasants were crowing, thinking it was breaking day. In 1925, with donations from the Masons, the present concrete building was erected. Two doors to the east (168 East Line) is the John Black Residence. Today it is still occupied and is reputed to be the second-oldest residence remaining in Bishop (please do not disturb occupants).

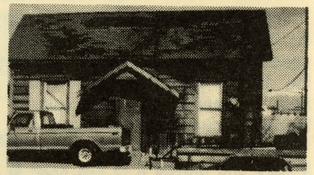


Bargain Store 14
312 North Main Street

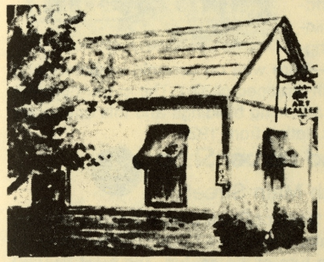
In the 1890s, John (Dutch John) Alberts owned the corner of North Main and Willow Streets. Originally "Dutch John" established a blacksmith shop. Later the property was sold to Dr. George, who had been a major in the civil war, and he founded his medical practice with his residence in the back. Dr. George practiced medicine here until his death in May of 1900. Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Baldwin came to Bishop and started the "Golden Rule Store" in Dr. George's building. The business flourished and the building enlarged. It was then called the "Baldwin Bargain Store." Later it became the J.C. Penney store. In the 1940s it was remodeled, became a Rosco's Five and Dime, and finally, Sierra Office Supply.

The "Little Brown House" 15
Corner of Willow and Rose Streets

This house, behind Sierra Office Supply was built in the late 1800s.



Lady Bug 16
462 Rose Street

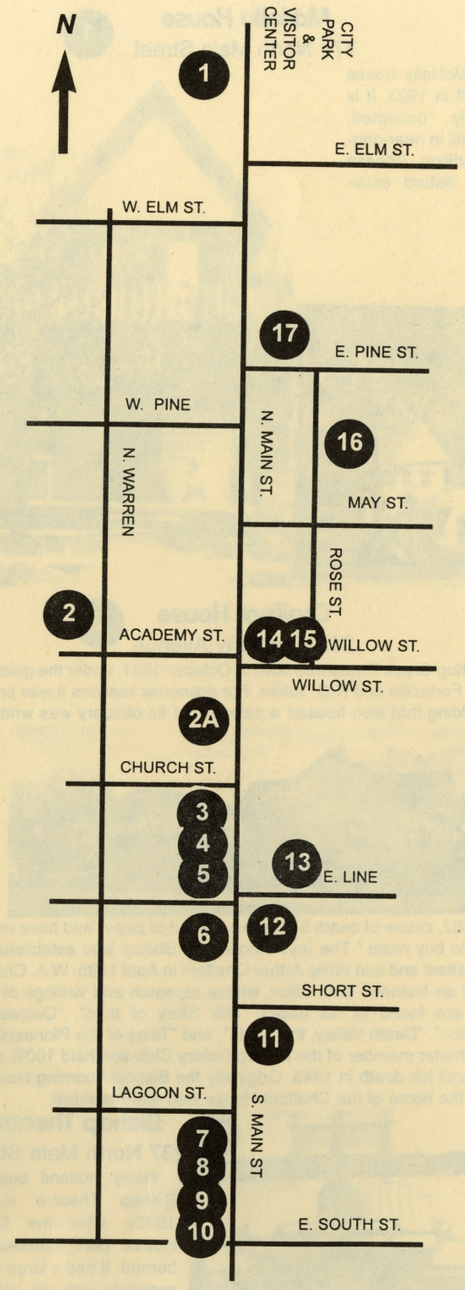


The Lady Bug Art Gallery house was built in 1890. At that time the house was owned by Jasper Williams. One hundred five years later, the house again is owned by a Williams, no relation. The house still sits on its original foundation of tufa rock, native to the Mono Lake area. The original tax bill dates back to December 29, 1890. The total amount due was $18.02. You can still see the tax bill displayed in the gallery, but watch out—the house comes with its own ghost, "Nellie".

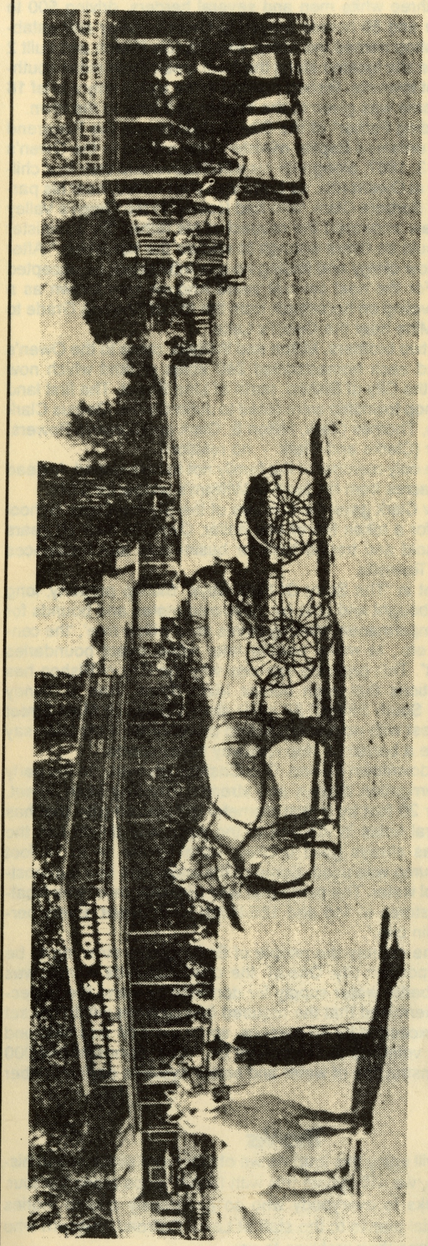
Kittie Lee Hotel 17
524 North Main Street

In August, 1924, southerner Matt Wilkenson opened the Kittie Lee Inn, named for his daughter "Kittie Lee". William E. Whorff purchased the Inn in 1925 and the Kittie Lee was "The" place to stay for Hollywood's finest. During World War II the dining room became barracks for the Army Air Force pilots who were training at the Bishop Airport. In 1950, the Copper Kettle and Charlie's Room Bar were

opened. In 1965, the Inn was torn down, but Charlie's Room and Copper Kettle continued to operate. In 1975 the building was sold to Sam Walker, who reconstructed it to what it is today as the Whiskey Creek Restaurant. The Sugar and Spice Room, with a welcoming used-brick fireplace remains to this day inside of the restaurant. A special note of interest: the large Ohio Buckeye tree standing proudly in the midst of the deck in front of Whiskey Creek was given as a gift from an Ohio couple at the completion of construction in 1924. It still produces "buckeyes" in the fall and has survived the many remodelings through the years.



NOT TO SCALE
SOME STREETS OMITTED



A WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN DOWNTOWN BISHOP

OUR STORIES

Bishop was named after Samuel A. Bishop on August 22, 1861. Bishop, his wife, three white men and several herders, driving 500 to 600 head of cattle and 50 horses arrived in Owen's Valley and established a camp. Bishop named the camp San Francis Ranch and built 2 small cabins on the site located along the local creek three miles southwest of the present townsite. Bishop resided in the valley only a brief 18 months, but his name was given to the stream and later to the town.

The true "Founding Father" of the City of Bishop was the Reverend Andrew Clark, an ordained Baptist minister, who arrived in the Owen's Valley on October 3, 1867, along with his wife Rachel and their four children. They settled at Owensville, as Laws was then called, near his parents, Thomas and Barbara Clark, who had located in the Owen's Valley about 1863. Andrew answered the request of his father "for a minister to be sent that would be brave enough to endure the hardships." After inquiring of his fellow clergy and finding no one interested, he accepted the call himself. For the next several years Andrew was known as a "Circuit Rider", traveling on horseback from the top of Sherwin Grade to the Cerro Gordo Mine near the Owen's Lake.

Andrew Clark's two brothers, Milton and William, came to the Owen's Valley in 1865 and each homesteaded 240 acres of land which now comprise most of the City of Bishop, north of Line Street. The first land patents in the Bishop township were listed to John Clarke, Dorcus Clark (widow of William), Thomas Clark, Milton S. Clark and Minerva Powers, all in 1874 or later (Clarke and Clark - no relation).

Andrew was the only member in the family not to homestead. Instead he purchased 40 acres from his brother William's widow for $500.

In 1876 Andrew Clark gave the trustees of the Bishop Creek School the first property for a token fee of one dollar. Over the next 40 years Andrew bought, sold and traded land for businesses and residences within the Bishop Townsite.

William Chalfant in "The Story Of Inyo" says "Bishop property, long unsurveyed, was bought and sold by measured metes and bounds for years; with such impermanent starting points as 'a willow tree', 'the center of the ditch', etc., to make trouble later when exact boundaries became important". This probably explains why the City of Bishop has only two intersections that align across Main Street (one at Yaney Street and one at South Street)! All other streets begin at Main Street and run east or west with no corresponding cross street. Folk tales say this was to provide a barrier to stop runaway horse teams.

In his notes on downtown Bishop, Gus Cashbaugh says, "In the early days there were irrigation ditches and streams crossing Main Street. For drinking water 20 foot by 2 inch diameter galvanized pipe that has a point and several holes in the end of the pipe, was driven into the ground. There was always good drinking water at the 14 to 18 foot depth. A pitcher pump was used. Some of the water had iron but mostly it was clear, cool water. The pump that was used the most was located in front of the stores at 115 and 125 North Main Street. Every person used the old tin cup."

At the turn of the century the people of Bishop were straining to be born into an incorporated city. One of the chief purposes in view was the creation of a better water supply for domestic use and fire protection. A census determined that the required 500 persons within the set boundaries was exceeded by 40 persons, so an election was held and incorporation was voted 63 to 36 on April 24, 1903. Bonds of $44,000 were voted for construction of water and sewer systems on September 6, 1904.

Thanks

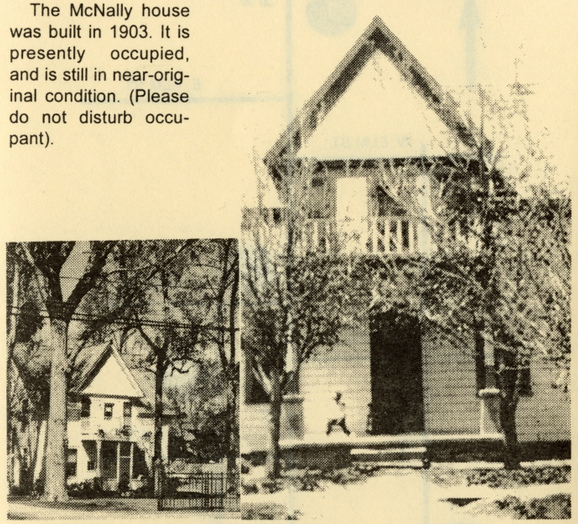
We hope you will enjoy this tour! As we obtain more pictures and historical information, we will update this with further stops along the tour. Our undying thanks to everybody who so generously shared stories and photos. Special thanks to the staff at Laws Railroad museum who so graciously opened their archives to us.

Barbel Williams, Kathy Henderson, Tina Cocherell
Vivian Patterson, Shirley Fendon

McNally House 1

779 North Main Street

The McNally house was built in 1903. It is presently occupied, and is still in near-original condition. (Please do not disturb occupant).

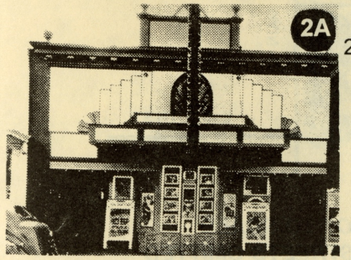


Chalfant House 2

213 Academy Avenue

The Bishop Creek Times was born in October 1881, under the guidance of E. H. Fortecilla and R.C. Julian. For economic reasons it was printed in a building that also housed a saloon, but its obituary was written in

June 1882, cause of death being "we are out of paper and have not the money to buy more." The Inyo Register at Bishop was established by P.A. Chalfant and son Willie Arthur Chalfant in April 1885. W.A. Chalfant became an historian and editor, whose research and writings of local history are found in his books "The Story of Inyo", "Outposts of Civilization", "Death Valley, the Facts", and "Tales of the Pioneers". He was a charter member of the Bishop Rotary Club and held 100% attendance until his death in 1943. Originally the Bishop Rooming House, it is now the home of the Chalfant House Bed and Breakfast.



Bishop Theatre 2A

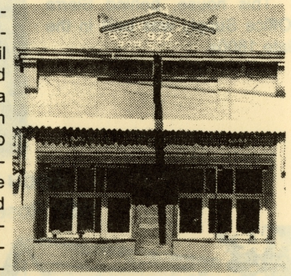
237 North Main Street

Harry Holland built the Bishop Theatre in the 1920s after the Opera House (see number 13) burned. It had a large stage complete with rich red velvet curtains. The community used it for various local performances.

Bishop Bakery 3

125 North Main Street

In the Black Building (see number 5) was the Vienna Bakery managed by Ed and Lulu Mckeen until the 1920s. Bob Schoch arrived from Germany, married Louisa Bulpitt and purchased the bakery in 1922. He renamed it the Bishop Bakery and moved it to this location. The Schochs originated the sheepherder bread and later sold the bakery to the now world-renowned Schat family. The building still has (but not used) the original electrical systems (the first—bare wire on ceramic insulators and wooden posts, the second—cloth-wrapped cable). The current system is modern and up-to-code. The adjoining buildings and this one share common side walls, agreements dating from 1926.



Saloon and Barber Shop 4

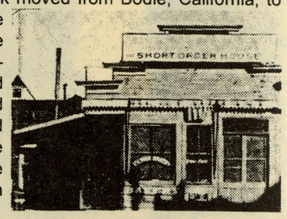
115 North Main Street

North of Black Corner was the Murphy Saloon and Jake Koch's Barber Shop. At the turn of the century, the most popular water pump was located on the street in front of the store where you could find an old pitcher pump and a tin cup. In the 1920s, the family of Jake Koch started a western clothing store and named it "The Toggery". In the 1940s The Toggery was sold to M.D. & Louise Alexander. The store is still owned by the Estate of Louise Alexander Sessums.

Black's Corner 5

Northwest Corner of Main and Line Streets

In 1891, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Black moved from Bodie, California, to Bishop. Mr. Black purchased the property from Mr. Phillipay. At the time, there were several small businesses renting space: a pool and billiard parlour, a confectionery and tobacco shop, and a grocery and meat market. In 1920 the concrete walls were constructed. In 1972 the frontage walls were refaced with brick.



Marks & Cohen, General Merchandise 6

Southwest Corner of Main and Line Streets

(See cover picture, taken 1900, looking west toward Mt. Tom)

Today a car rental lot and a glass house occupy part of this property and a portion of Rich's Britches may be a part of the original building.

The Jail 7

307 South Main Street

In the 1870s, John B. Clarke donated land on the southwest corner of Lagoon and South Main Streets to build a jail. As the population increased, the building was enlarged. The jail is made of poured-in-place concrete. It extends along Lagoon Street about

ninty feet and about thirty feet along Main Street. It housed the Justice Court, City Police, Inyo County Sheriff and jail cells. South of the jail was China Town.

Chinese Village 8

(Now Perry Motors' used car lot)

The street through it was narrow and crooked. It extended through to the west one block and south to the canal at South Street. It was a very swampy area filled with cattails and weeds. Many of the shacks were on stilts 2' to 3' in the air because the area filled with water when it rained. The Chinese dressed in the traditional attire of black clothing and long hair. China Town was abandoned in 1911.

Old Inyo Lumber Property 9

351 South Main Street

Now the site of Dominos Pizza and Hi-Mountain Rentals. Arthur Hess bought a large lot and started the early Inyo Lumber Company.

Blacksmith Shop 10

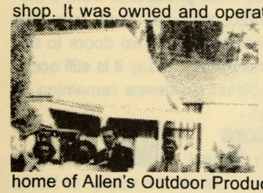
315 South Main Street

Elbridge Hartshorn, born in Bishop in 1889, was a blacksmith for many years. After he died, his sons, William and Finley, operated the business as a hardware and welding shop. The wheels of the Borax Twenty Mule Team wagon were made by Elbridge Hartshorn. The wagon was used for years to transport borax from Death Valley. William Hartshorn is still a resident of Bishop. The ownership of the building remained in the Hartshorn family until 1985, a span of 96 years.

Butcher Shop 11

200 South Main Street

On the corner of South Main and Short Streets was the first butcher shop. It was owned and operated by Sol Foorman. The butcher shop was in the front of the building and the family residence in the rear. In 1972 the old frame building was remodeled and a new exterior provided. The building has been the home of many businesses: flower shop, bike shop, crafts and jewelry, real estate, and is now the home of Allen's Outdoor Products and Rainbow Pack Station.



Bank Building 12

106 South Main Street

John B. Clarke gave this corner to Seth Sneden, an attorney, in the 1860s, so that he could start the town of Bishop Creek. Sneden built the first store on this site and was the first postmaster. Although the banking industry was first introduced to Inyo County in 1903, there have been a number of banks doing business at this location, starting with the First National Bank of Bishop, then United Security Bank and Trust Company. For over thirty years a Bank of America Branch was located here. This building was remodeled in the